

A Living Hell ①

People fleeing, almost naked with their burned skin hanging. People walking in pitiful condition with severe injuries. People lying on the ground, just waiting for their death. These unearthly horrific scenes were often described as a “living hell.”



A scene of hell beyond our imagination met our eyes.

①Yozo Tanaka ②18→75 ③8/6 ④Funakoshi

Naked, burned skin hanging in tatters—young and old, male and female alike, they came upon us in waves, cries of “I’m hot!” and “Help me!” merging into a huge wail.



They used all the strength they had to get to the riverbed. Then they collapsed.

①Chie Harada ②18→47 ③8/6 ④Near Tokiwa Bridge

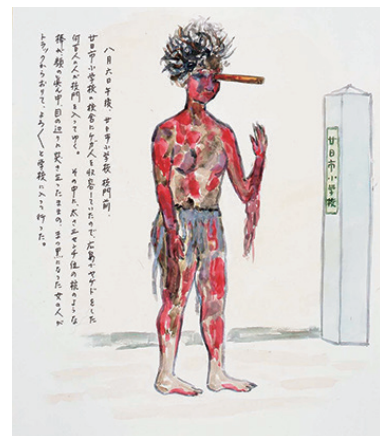
By and by, with death near, their weak voices strained to ask for water. When I gave it to them, they gulped it eagerly; relieved, they breathed their last breath.



He was walking with his intestines dangling from his belly.

①Tadakatsu Hatsuya ②34→64 ③8/6 ④Ujinakanda

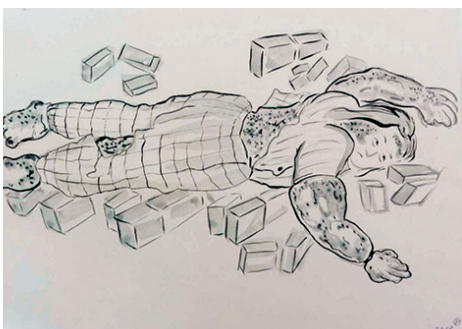
The man was around 40 years old. Burned over his whole body, his skin was peeling like peach skin. His face was completely pale except for bloodshot eyes staring at a fixed point.



A stake stuck in her face

①Takashi Hayashi ②15→72 ③8/6 ④Hatsukaichi City

A stake about three centimeters wide was sticking into the middle of a blackened woman's face. She got off a truck and staggered into the school building.



She was immobile and helpless under the broiling sun.

①Gitai Harada ②16→46 ③8/7 ④Near Aioi Bridge

I saw that her wristwatch was biting into her skin and tried to loosen it, but when I touched the skin on her hand, it slipped off, so I could do nothing for her. At least I wanted to get her out of the sun, but there was no grass, no tree, nothing but broken bricks.